From: The IACP
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Subject: IACP"s The Lead: Senate Reaches Deal To Vote Next Week On Bill Extending Compensation Fund For 9/11 First Responders.
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Greetings Jeremy Grimes

Friday, July 19, 2019

POLICING & POLICY

Senate Reaches Deal To Vote Next Week On Bill Extending Compensation Fund For 9/11 First Responders

The Washington Post (7/18, Sonmez, Barrett) reports the Senate on Thursday "reached an agreement to hold a vote next week on legislation extending a victims compensation fund for 9/11 workers, following an emotional appeal by comedian Jon Stewart and first responders." Senate Majority Leader McConnell's office "said that the vote will take place on or before next Wednesday and that the Senate will also consider two amendments" – one offered by Sen. Mike Lee (R-UT), the other by Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY).

The AP (7/18, Daly) reports Senate Minority Leader Schumer and Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) "said Thursday they had reached an agreement" with Lee and Paul "to bring up the bill no later than Wednesday." The agreement came after "comedian Jon Stewart again blasted Republicans who have held up the bill."

Massachusetts Bill Would Allow EMTs To Treat Injured Police Dogs

The AP (7/18) reports from Boston, "First responders would be allowed to treat and transport injured police dogs to veterinary hospitals under a proposal being considered by Massachusetts lawmakers." According to the AP, "Nero's bill, named for the K9 partner of slain Yarmouth Police Sgt. Sean Gannon, was heard Thursday by the Legislature's Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee." Gannon "was fatally shot last year while serving an arrest warrant." Nero "was also shot, but because of current state law, EMTs weren't allowed to treat or transport him." The AP notes, "A retired K9 officer eventually arrived to help Nero, who survived." The bill "would permit emergency personnel to treat injured police dogs and bring them to veterinary facilities, as long as there are no injured people still requiring a hospital transport."

Portland Considers Banning Masks During Protests

The Wall Street Journal (7/18, Elinson, Subscription Publication) reports the city of Portland, Oregon is considering outlawing the wearing of masks by protesters in an effort to stem violent confrontations between activists on the left and the right.

Chicago-Area School Councils Will Have Final Say About Police Officers In Schools

The Chicago Sun-Times (7/18, Hendirckson) reports, "Local school councils will have the final say on whether Chicago police officers will work at their schools, a district official said." According to the Sun-Times, "Chief Safety and Security officer Jadine Chou made the announcement Wednesday night during a public meeting led by Chicago police to discuss the future role and responsibilities of school resource officers." The Sun-Times adds, "The role of police in schools has come under fire as some question whether the schools would be better served with more social workers and support staff instead. 'We are not here to say all schools need to have school resource officers,' Chou said. 'We know that there's no one-size-fits-all [approach].'"

Baltimore Police Plan Calls For Ten-Minute Response Time For Serious Calls

The Baltimore Sun (7/18, Anderson) reports, "The Baltimore police commissioner's crime plan unveiled Thursday sets a 'new performance goal' of responding to serious calls within 10 minutes and said officers will be asked to spend a third of their time on proactive efforts to curb violent crime." The Sun adds, "The initiatives were among many outlined by Commissioner Michael Harrison as he grapples with the city's soaring homicide rate." According to the Sun, "Many of the initiatives have been announced before, but the plan provides more details of his vision for reforming community relations and reducing crime." Harrison "also offered a blueprint for more effectively using the department's resources. 'When the department operates more efficiently and more effectively we will be better able to reduce, deter and prevent violent crime,' Harrison said at a news conference Thursday at police headquarters."

Louisville, Kentucky Police Urge Public To Lock Their Cars

The Louisville (KY) Courier-Journal (7/18, Tobin) reports, "Once again, the Louisville Metro Police Department is sending a message to the public: please lock your cars." According to the Courier-Journal, "From July 12 to 17, 50 cars were reported stolen in Jefferson County, according to a Facebook post from LMPD," and "the 'overwhelmingly vast majority' of these stolen cars were by 'unknown means,' which means the victim couldn't tell police how the car was stolen or there was no sign of forced entry." According to the Courier-Journal, "This post came just one week after LMPD posted a video to its social media accounts also warning people to keep their cars locked after 95 guns were stolen from vehicles from June 1 to July 10."

Portland, Oregon Police Grapple With Street Racing Problem

The Oregonian (7/18, Talbot) reports, "Sunday in Northeast Portland means two things for officers in the Portland Police Bureau North Precinct: street racers burning rubber in parking lots, and police cruisers there to stop them," but "when up to 1,000 spectators congregate – along with hundreds of cars – to watch drivers drift and race, it's impossible for police to chase them all down, and dangerous to engage in high-speed pursuits at all. 'Police chases are inherently dangerous,' Sgt. Brad Yakots of PPB North Precinct said. 'I don't know if that's the right medicine for it either – speed and speed.'" Police "are aiming to work with businesses, educate parents and use social media to combat speed racing in Portland."

The 2018–2019 Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor is the nation's highest public safety honor that can be awarded to emergency medical personnel, firefighters, and law enforcement officers. This award honors federal, state, local, and tribal public safety officers who have demonstrated exceptional bravery, risking serious injury or death, in the line of duty. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is seeking nominations for the Medal of Valor now through **Wednesday, July 31, 2019.**

Public Safety Officers can be nominated for any qualifying event between June 1, 2018, and May 31, 2019. Public Safety Officers must be nominated by the heads of their agencies by July 31, 2019, at 11:59 p.m. ET to be considered for this award. Agency heads may submit multiple nominations to honor several officers or to honor one officer for multiple separate events. For help in writing your nominations, read nomination guidelines and stories of past recipients at the Medal of Valor website.

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CRIME & DRUGS

Canadian Police Arrest Nine Suspected Members Of Mafia Clan

Reuters (7/18, Scherer, Amante) reports, "Canadian police on Thursday said they had arrested nine suspected members of a powerful Mafia clan with roots in southern Italy involved in money laundering and illegal gambling in the Toronto area, seizing C$35 million ($26.8 million) in assets, including five Ferraris." Reuters adds, "Over three days, police raided 48 cafes, businesses and residences connected to the group, nabbing the alleged boss, Angelo Figliomeni, and eight other suspects on a raft of accusations, including money laundering, defrauding the government and participating in an organized crime group." Canadian police "are still trying to track down one other man on related illegal gambling and drugs charges." In Italy, "home of the Calabrian 'Ndrangheta Mafia, police arrested 12 people and sought two others in a parallel investigation for Mafia association,

illegal weapons possession, fraudulent asset transfers and other crimes."

Federal Data Show Rural Communities Were Flooded By Prescription Opioids

The AP (7/18, Wang, Minchillo) reports that "newly released prescription opioid statistics underscore how widespread pill use has been in towns and small cities of America's Appalachian region." The article focuses on Ohio's Jackson County, where "the outsized numbers of prescription pain pills have helped fuel many heartbreaking stories of overdose deaths," and "they've also contributed to uneven addiction recovery and surging foster care rates as parents lose their children or leave them orphaned." The Drug Enforcement Administration's "distribution database is a key element of lawsuits filed by more than 2,000 state, local and tribal governments."

Likewise, an article by the Washington Post (7/18, A1, Achenbach) focuses on the flood of prescription opioids in Norton, Virginia. In this coal-producing region, "the foundation of the economy is now health care. Sickness, disease and infirmity are growth industries in much of rural America."

TECHNOLOGY

Europol Head Says Police Need Intercept Tools As Mobile Networks Develop

Reuters (7/18, Deutsch) reports, "European law enforcement agencies set to lose the ability to tap criminals' mobile devices with the launch of 5G technology must be brought into discussions earlier when communications networks are modernised, the new head of Europol told Reuters." According to Reuters, "Appealing to EU leaders for greater powers to fight tech-savvy criminals, Catherine De Bolle said its member states do not yet have the domestic regulations or technology to fill the policing gap that will open up when 4G networks become obsolete. 'It is one of the most important investigative tools that police officers and services have, so we need this in the future,' she said in an interview, giving the example of locating a child who has been kidnapped." Reuters adds, "European police authorities are now able to listen to and track wanted criminals using mobile communication devices on the 4G network, but 'we cannot use them in the 5G network,' De Bolle said."

Carroll County MD Sheriff's Office Using Drones For Crash, Crime Scene Photography

The Carroll County (MD) Times (7/18, Kyles) reports that since 2017, the Carroll County, Maryland Sheriff's Office "has been primarily using the drone program for crash reconstruction, and overhead and crime scene photography and videography, operators of the Sheriff's Office drones told the Times." Deputies have "used the airborne devices to get a bird's eye perspective in specific situations – but not as a public surveillance tool, a spokesman said." The Sheriff's Office "currently has four drones and five deputies qualified to use them." The five deputies have been "certified through the Federal Aviation Administration Part 107 license, and the deputies must get recertified every two years." The "funding for the purchase of the drones came from the 2016 State Homeland Security Grant Program Funding, Lt. Christopher Orwig said."

GLOBAL SECURITY

German Police Detain Six Suspected Islamic Extremists

The AP (7/18) reports that police in Cologne "raided the apartments of alleged Islamic extremists on Thursday and detained six people amid suspicions the group may have been planning an attack." The "main suspect is a 30-year-old German-Lebanese convert to Islam who has been on authorities' radar as an extremist for six years and tried repeatedly to travel to territory controlled by the Islamic State group, senior police official Klaus-Stephan Becker told reporters."

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